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Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 SS-15
SSM-05 H-02 SSO-00 SIG-03 MMO-04 INR-10 INRE-00
SP-02 NSAE-00 HA-05 /095 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
S/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
----------080165 012238Z /75
O 012201Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS
CIA
USIA
NSC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 1

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR MARCH 1, 1978. FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COM MENT OR REACTION TO THE SYRIAN
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BEHAVIOR IN LEBANON CALLING FOR THE TRIAL OF 14 OR 15 LEBANESE OFFICERS?

A. I DO NOT HAVE A SPECIAL COMMENT ON THAT. I KNOW THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP A SPECIAL SECURITY COURT TO DEAL WITH CRIMES AFFECTING THE DETERRENT FORCE GENERALLY IN LEBANON. ON THE SPECIFIC REPORT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, I SIMPLY DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT.

Q. WELL, THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING. DOES THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AGREE WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO REBUILD THEIR ARMY? AND THIS ARMY IS BEING SIMPLY BUILT EVEN BEFORE THEY START BUILDING IT AGAIN.

A. YES, BUT I CAN'T MAKE THAT LINKAGE BETWEEN THE NECESSITY FOR ME TO COMMENT ON THAT AND OUR GENERAL COMMITMENT TO

HELP BUILD UP THE LEBANESE ARMY. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT.

Q. WE'RE NOW AT THE 1ST OF MARCH AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN IS GOING TO BE HERE IN ABOUT 12 DAYS OR SO. IS

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IT NOW FAIR TO ASSUME THAT THERE WILL BE NO AGREEMENT ON A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES BEFORE HE ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON?

A. I DON'T WANT TO MAKE THAT PREDICTION. I DON'T WANT TO TRY TO SPECULATE ON IT. DIDN'T WE GO THROUGH SOME OF THIS YESTERDAY? I MEAN THE EFFORT CONTINUES, OBVIOUSLY. ROY ATHERTON IS REMAINING IN THE AREA UNTIL HE COMES BACK A FEW DAYS AHEAD OF MR. BEGIN. I SIMPLY WOULDN'T WANT TO TRY TO MAKE A GUESS. I'M NOT QUALIFIED TO MAKE A GUESS. WE ARE CONTINUING THE EFFORTS.

Q. IS KING HUSSEIN COMING LATER THIS MONTH TO
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WASHINGTON?

A. I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT. I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q. AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED IN LEBANON, DO YOU STILL VIEW THE SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON AS A PEACEKEEPING FORCE OR OCCUPYING FORCE?

A. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE THERE WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AND THAT THEY ARE PLAYING A ROLE WHICH WE BELIEVE HAS BEEN USEFUL IN THE PAST AND CAN CONTINUE TO BE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN, THE FOLLOWING WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE.

Q. WILL ANYONE FROM STATE TESTIFY AT TOMORROW'S (MARCH 1) HEARING ON THE SALE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO MOROCCO?

A. MR. VELIOTES WILL TESTIFY ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ITUATION IN MOROCCO AND U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO.

Q. WHERE DO WE NOW STAND ON THE PROJECT, WHEREBY U.S. FIRMS WOULD PARTICIPATE IN REFURBISHING EGYPT'S MIG 21'S?

A. PROPOSALS ON AIRCRAFT ENGINES AND AIRFRAMES WERE

PRESENTED TO THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT IN MID-JANUARY BY CONSORTIA IN WHICH G.E. AND LOCKHEED ARE PARTNERS. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT EGYPT HAS DECIDED NOT TO
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ACCEPT THESE PROPOSALS.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Review Media Identifier:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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